



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 23, 2005

News Release

ICE AGENTS ARREST 21 CHILD PREDATORS AND SEX OFFENDERS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

WHITE PLAINS, NY – A Guatemalan illegal alien who attempted to rape a seven-year-old girl and a Mexican citizen who raped a 14-year-old girl were among 21 individuals arrested today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents as part of a cooperative enforcement action with the Westchester County Department of Probation.

Arrests were made throughout the county including New Rochelle, Yonkers, Mount Kisco, White Plains and Peekskill.

All of the aliens arrested today had prior felony or misdemeanor convictions in Westchester County for offenses including rape, sexual abuse, assault, unlawful imprisonment, stalking, public lewdness and reckless endangerment. Their criminal convictions render these individuals deportable.

“Working together with our law enforcement partners in Westchester County ICE is restoring integrity to our immigration system,” said Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Salvatore Dalessandro. “We are putting every sex offender and child predator on notice. This behavior will not be tolerated. We will find you and we will arrest you.”

“This is the second year that we have worked with ICE to take sex offenders off our streets and we are pleased with the success of this operation,” said Westchester County Executive Andy Spano. “Our Protect the Kids program, part of our Probation Department’s efforts, has made Westchester a safer place for all our children.”

Westchester County Commissioner of Corrections and Probation explained, “Today’s operation with ICE is in keeping with our on-going efforts to protect children. There is no room in this country for those who would prey on our children. The Department of Probation was happy to assist ICE with the research and documentation to make this operation a success.”

In total, 21 individuals were arrested. They include:

- Juan Izazaga - A Mexican national, who was in this country illegally, was convicted of Stalking in the 3rd Degree. He stalked a 13-year-old girl.
- Jorge Luis Giron - A Guatemalan man, who was in this country illegally, was convicted of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. He attempted to rape a seven-year-old girl.
- A citizen of Mexico who raped a 14-year-old girl.

Following today's arrests, ICE agents transported the individuals to a detention facility in Passaic County, New Jersey. All of those apprehended have been placed into removal proceedings. Those with final orders of removal will be deported from the country shortly. The others will have their cases heard before an Immigration Judge.

This action is a part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive national initiative to protect our children from sexual predators. Operation Predator targets human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Since Operation Predator was launched on July 9, 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 child predators and sex offenders nationwide. More than 300 of these arrests have been in the metropolitan New York area.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Dalessandro thanked the Westchester County Department of Probation for its participation in the enforcement action.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.